GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:924
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
MENTAL STRESS ON CHILDREN
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in regard to the mental condition of the innocent children (between the age group of 6 to 10 years) who are facing mental stress due to the home work assigned to them by the schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; (c) whether the children in India are becoming psychiatric patients;

(d) if so, the number and details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government/Central Board of Secondary Education has any concrete measures to check and improve the mental condition of such children;

(f) if so, whether the number of child psychiatric patients in India is very alarming; and

(g) the number of Government and Non-Government institutions from which assistance has been received in this regard and the grant-in-aid provided to them alongwith the positive outcome thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (d) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have not conducted any such surveys.

(e) The CBSE has taken following measures to reduce the stress on children and to make learning a joyful experience :-

(i) Abolition of homework for the children of Classes I to II.

(ii) Interesting and meaningful alternative activities to replace the dull and mechanical homework from classes II to V.

(iii) Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation from class I to V with no pass/fail criterion.

(iv) Gradual implementation of grading system for the assessment of students. Five point grading system from classes I to V and Seven point grading system from classes VI to VIII, are in placed.

(v) Comprehensive School Health Programme and establishment of Health Clubs in the schools.

(vi) Education in life skills for the students of class VI to VIII with focus on developing self-awareness, interpersonal relationship, equanimity and strength of character.

(vii) Adolescence Education programme for students of classes Vi to XII to cater to the special needs of the adolescents in physical, emotional, mental and social development.

(viii) Providing counseling services to children before and during examination and after the announcement of results using multimedia, newspapers and television besides tele and counselors by experienced teachers, principals and qualified counselors.

(ix) Providing guidelines to teachers for diagnostic techniques of teaching children with learning difficulties.

(x) Greater emphasis on soft subjects like dance, art, music, craft etc in order to foster creativity and harmonious development of the total personality of children.

(f) No such survey has been conducted.

(g) No, Sir.